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FROM

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

Accession No. 6R-172

Date Rec'd SA 100-1945 X
Date of report 22 June 1945

To	Room No.	Date Rec'd	Date Fwd'd	Officer's Initials	Comments
1.	274	2/10	2/10	(B)	Disseminated from cable IN-2133 A-49894.
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(X)

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22 January 1945

Hq 2677th Regiment
Detachment "R"

OB-172

SECRET
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

COUNTRY
SUBJECT

Romania
Optimistic views of General Radescu
on present situation

ORIGINAL REPORT NO. OB-172
DATE OF REPORT 22 January 1945
EVALUATION Reportorial accuracy B-2

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SUB SOURCE as stated

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DATE OF INFORMATION 22 January 1945
PLACE OF ORIGIN Romania

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The following information was obtained from a subsource of unquestioned reliability having direct access to General Radescu.

1. Romanians fighting with Russians

General Radescu stated that in the conversation which took place between himself and Marshal Malinovsky, on 19 January (presumably at the time when they met for the purpose of signing the convention under Article 11 of the Armistice), Marshal Malinovsky declared emphatically that he is very well pleased with the manner in which the Romanian troops are fighting, and that he has no complaint to make on this score; however, General Radescu pointed out that very little if any mention of the contributions and accomplishments of the Romanian units is ever made in the official Russian communiques, and he further stated that the Romanian troops are fighting under the greatest difficulties because of a lack of sufficient material. More specifically, General Radescu pointed out that much of the equipment which the Romanian units had was of German and Russian origin, and that the Russians are constantly taking this equipment away from the Romanians for their own use, leaving many Romanian units without any essential equipment in certain important categories.

2. Relations with the Russians

General Radescu further stated that he is very pleased at the manner in which the Russians have been conducting themselves toward himself and the Romanian Government at the present time. He said that this change in their manner of dealing and general attitude dates approximately from 1 January 45, which was the time when he made his public declaration to the effect that Romania will be unable to carry out the terms of the Armistice without some Russian help and a relaxation in the restrictions upon the Romanian national economy for which the Russians

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CLASSIFICATION

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have been responsible. He said that the Russians have been much more friendly and conciliatory in their attitude and dealings and that several times the Russians have actually come forward with suggestions and offers of assistance. Moreover, the Russians have suggested certain compromises on difficult points and currently things are going better than ever before since the Russian entry into Romania. General Radescu expressed the opinion that this turn-about in the Russian behavior might well be based upon Russian apprehension that they would be subjected to censure and criticism by the American and British Governments for the harshness and unfairness of their treatment of Romania; and that they were modifying their behavior in anticipation of and in order to avoid such Anglo-American censure and criticism.

3. "Accomplishments" of Gheorghiu-Dej in Russia

Regarding the recent visit of Gheorghiu-Dej to Moscow, General Radescu stated that Gheorghiu-Dej had reported great success and that the Russians had promised that some 2500 railroad cars would soon be made available for the use of the Romanians for their own internal needs. The Russians also intimated to Gheorghiu-Dej that as soon as the requirements of the military situation would permit it, the control and operation of the Romanian transportation system would be restored to the Romanians. However, no definite date was fixed or promised for the Russian performance of either of these promises. General Radescu commented that whereas this was indeed welcome news since the transportation situation is one of the very most critical problems in Romania today—it did not amount to any accomplishment on the part of Gheorghiu-Dej. These same things had already been agreed to in approximately the same terms by General Vinogradov in conversations with Radescu. General Radescu further commented that he suspected that Gheorghiu-Dej had devoted more time in Moscow to political matters (none of which he had reported) than to the main purpose of his mission because otherwise he might have been expected to have brought back more tangible results.

4. Favorable situation in Government

According to General Radescu, the situation in the Government is quite good at the present time and he is receiving the support of the representatives of all the political parties. As evidence of the unified support which he is receiving, General Radescu mentioned that in the recently enacted law of the syndicates (the law providing for the rights and obligations of labor unions in Romania), he had been able to establish each and every point which he himself considered to be essential. This is a highly controversial law and General Radescu expressed himself as being well pleased that all parties had been able to agree upon the principal points upon which he had insisted. General Radescu attributes this unity of support in part to the fact that he is recognized by the various political factions as being a non-party man and as having no particular attachment or preference to any one political party over the other. He said, however, that he did not wish to create the impression that all is serene on the Romanian political scene and in particular he mentioned the very considerable internal difficulties and disagreements currently taking place within the ranks of the National Peasant party. The General was critical of this internal struggle among the National Peasants for power and position within the party and declared that it would be better for the party to resolve its difficulties in order to put more time behind its support of the government. In fact, General Radescu stated that at the present moment he is receiving much stronger support from the Communist party than from the National Peasant party.

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Comment: The following statements - which present as less optimistic view of the situation - were made to source by another person who is extremely close to General Madescu and who is in an excellent position to observe the attitude and conduct of other members of the Government:

(a) At the present time the Government is making some headway, but is proceeding only with the greatest difficulty and such progress as is being made is almost entirely attributable to the personal effort of General Madescu. Although the others give lip service to his leadership, all of the ministers, with the possible exception of Burchi and Bobe Bratianu, are occupying the vast majority of their time and energy with party affairs and the securing of personal advantages and benefits for themselves. He was particularly critical of Mr. Gross, the Vice-President of the Council, who he stated had repeatedly refused to undertake work on Government problems of great urgency and importance, and had been very frank to state that he could not afford to spare so much time from his duties and activities in connection with building the strength of his party, the Frontal Flacăra. The result is that General Madescu carries almost the entire burden on his own shoulders and is forced to give his personal attention to trivial matters of detail about which he should not be concerned. The General works more than 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and sub-source expressed amazement at his energy, and the fact that his health has withstood this strain.

(b) Regarding the junior functionaries of the government, sub-source stated that he doubted if as many as 20 of all the functionaries at the presidency could be considered truly honest and sincere men. Each is bent upon seeking his personal advantage, and very few are devoting themselves to the fulfilment of their duties. Sub-source attributes this deplorable situation to the cynicism and corruption of the Carol and Antonescu dictatorships and to a general lack of moral fiber in the Romanian officialdom. He said that even the judiciary, which had formerly been a fairly dependable and honest group, were now also largely corrupt. Many of the old judges had been sacked or had given up in despair during the period of the two dictatorships, and their places had been taken by puppets and "yes-men" placed in position by the dictators.

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Peasant Party. He says that he is getting more support now from the Communists than from the National Peasants.

Comments: Another well-placed source close to Radescu is less optimistic. He says that progress is made only with great difficulty and is owing almost entirely to the indefatigable work of Radescu, who carries even minor government matters. This source was especially critical of Groza, Vice President of the Council. He says Groza refused to work on urgent government matters and frankly said that he could not spare the time from his own party work (Frontul Flugarilor). Source said that the junior functionaries of the Government are cynical and corrupt and less than twenty at the presidency are sincere and honest. Even judges, formerly a dependable group, now are largely corrupt.

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